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Pre Amdt. A
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: K.S. Kim et al.

Attorney Docket No.: DESS114787

Application No.: 09/619,424

Group Art Unit: 1761

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Examiner: ---

Title: THREE AXIS PORTIONING METHOD

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Seattle, Washington 98101

July 12, 2001

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TO THE COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS:

In the Claims:

Please add the following new claims to the above-identified application.

A1 15. (New) An apparatus for processing foodstuff portions along a first axis, comprising:

a first conveyor run adapted to carry foodstuff portions on a first side;

a second conveyor run, spaced from the first conveyor run, and extending along the first conveyor run, the second conveyor run capable of carrying the foodstuff portions from the first conveyor run on a second foodstuff portion side; and

an adjustable cutting device positioned along the second conveyor run at a selected distance from the second conveyor run to cut the foodstuff portions being carried by the second conveyor run to a desired thickness.

16. (New) The apparatus of Claim 15, wherein the second conveyor run defines a first surface located above the first conveyor run and a second surface on a diagonal defining an acute angle with the first conveyor run.

17. (New) The apparatus of Claim 16, wherein the cutting device is positioned along the diagonal portion of the second conveyor run.

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02 FC:103

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